AUSTRALIA $1.50 · CANADA $1.00 · FRANCE 1.00 EURO · NEW ZEALAND $1.50 · UK £.50 · U.S. $1.00

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 79/NO. 34 SEPTEMBER 28, 2015

INSIDE

Cuban Revolution is example for workers, farmers in US

— PAGE 7

Join Socialist Workers Party drive for new readers!

BY NAOMI CRAINE

How can we strengthen our unions? How do we advance the fight against cop brutality and killings of Blacks and others? How can workers build our own party, a labor party based on our unions, independent of all of the capitalist parties? These are a few of the key questions facing working people that members of the Socialist Workers Party and Communist Leagues and those they work with are discussing and debating at strike picket lines, political protests and on doorsteps in working-class neighborhoods as part of the party's international drive to win new readers of the *Militant*.

In addition to signing up new subscribers to the newsweekly, which

Continued on page 3

Socialist Workers Party drive for new readers!

Help win 2,300 subscribers
Sept. 5 - Nov. 3 (week 1)

Country	quota	sold	%
UNITED STATES			
Atlanta	160	28	18%
Boston	70	17	24%
Chicago	165	41	25%
Lincoln	12	4	33%
Los Angeles	140	23	16%
Miami	120	13	11%
New York	380	67	18%
Oakland	180	37	21%
Omaha	40	18	45%
Philadelphia	120	18	15%
Seattle	125	31	25%
Twin Cities	65	11	17%
Washington	110	14	13%
U.S. Total	1687	322	19%
AUSTRALIA	75	15	20%
CANADA			
Calgary	65	13	20%
Montreal	80	12	15%
Canada Total	145	25	17%
NEW ZEALAND	65	11	17%
UNITED KINGDOM			
London	100	31	31%
Manchester	100	28	28%
U.K. Total	200	59	30%
PRISONERS	15	2	13%
Total	**2187**	**434**	**19%**
Should be	2300	288	13%

Solidarity with Syrian toilers, refugees key for working class

Tens of thousands of Syrian refugees, fleeing slaughter at the hands of the Bashar al-Assad regime, are facing riot police, razor wire fences and other dehumanizing treatment on the part of the continent's capitalist rulers.

It's a pressing question for the working class today to fight to organize these men and women as part of the class struggle, in whatever coun-

EDITORIAL

try they end up. Organize all workers into the unions! Fight for government-funded programs to provide jobs at union wages for native-born and refugees alike, building infrastructure, schools, hospitals and other things workers need. Fight against the rulers' attempts to criminalize or deny civic rights to refugees and other immigrants! No to discrimination and thuggery, whether at the hands of the border patrol or rightist gangs!

The labor officialdom in the United States and the different capitalist

Continued on page 8

Oct. 11 Quebec protest set to demand rail safety

Fight frame-up of rail workers for 2013 disaster

Journal MRG/Daniel Poulin

Press conference Sept. 14 announces Oct. 11 protest for rail safety in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, site of 2013 derailment and fire that killed 47 people. From left, activists Gilles Fluet, Richard Poirier, André Lachapelle, Gilbert Carette, Robert Bellefleur and André Blais.

BY JOHN STEELE

MONTREAL — "Most people in Lac-Mégantic agree that Tom Harding and Richard Labrie are just scapegoats," André Blais, a leader of the Citizens' Coalition and Groups Committee for Rail Safety, told the *Militant* in a Sept. 14 phone interview.

Harding and Labrie face government frame-up charges for the 2013 oil train derailment that killed 47 people in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec.

"Those who are really guilty are Transport Canada and the Montreal, Maine and Atlantic Railway owners," Blais said. "The railroad cut staff and maintenance work, ran trains with a one-person crew, and Transport Canada didn't do anything."

Continued on page 8

Steelworkers rally against boss cutback demands, ATI lockout

Karl Brendle

Steelworkers picket Allegheny Technologies official speaking in New York Sept. 9. ATI locked out workers Aug. 15. Bosses at three major steel companies are demanding deep concessions.

BY JOHN HAWKINS

EAST CHICAGO, Ind. — Steelworkers at ArcelorMittal took action after representatives of the steel giant walked out of negotiations over the Sept. 12-13 weekend. ArcelorMittal is one of three major steel companies whose contracts have run out as bosses demand deep concessions.

Contracts covering some 13,000 Steelworkers at ArcelorMittal and 17,000 at U.S. Steel expired Sept. 1. Union members at 12 Allegheny Technologies Inc. facilities in six states have been walking the picket line since the company locked out 2,200 workers Aug. 15.

Continued on page 8

'Days of Grace' brings together labor, fight against racism

BY SAM MANUEL

CHARLESTON, S.C. — A Labor Day weekend "Days of Grace" march and conference initiated by International Longshoremen's Association Local 1422 drew hundreds together here. The actions took place in the city where white supremacist Dylann Storm Roof killed nine people in a prayer meeting June 17 and North Charleston police officer Michael

Continued on page 4

Inside

As fighting lulls, Ukraine gov't attacks working class 2

'First payments on way' in party drive to raise $100,000 3

Assad's war creates refugee crisis in Syria, Europe 6

–On the picket line, p. 5–

5,000 Seattle teachers strike for smaller class size, pay hike

Grain millers in Iowa rally against concession contract

As fighting lulls, Ukraine gov't attacks working class

BY NAOMI CRAINE

"Peace Breaks Out in Eastern Ukraine," declared a headline in London's *Financial Times* Sept. 13. "Guarded Optimism as Cease-Fire Holds," said the *New York Times*. The renewed truce between the Ukrainian government and separatist forces backed by Moscow, which took effect Sept. 1, registers the still shaky consolidation of a de facto buffer zone under the influence of the Russian government in parts of the provinces of Donetsk and Luhansk.

At the same time the capitalist rulers of Ukraine are seeking to stabilize their crisis-ridden economy and relations with imperialist lenders by deepening attacks on the working class. The government headed by billionaire President Petro Poroshenko is clamping down on political and union rights, trying to roll back the space and self-confidence workers and others won in the popular upsurge that ousted Moscow-backed President Viktor Yanukovych in February 2014.

As part of efforts to reach a more secure set of international alliances in a world of growing crisis, the Barack Obama administration has been seeking a "reset" with the Vladimir Putin regime, signaling its willingness to accept a buffer zone in eastern Ukraine, which Moscow considers its "near abroad."

Washington needs to accept "Moscow as a great power that possesses real and legitimate interests, especially in its border areas," wrote former State Department official and long-time leader of the Council on Foreign Relations Leslie Gelb in June. Doing so, he said, will allow the U.S. and Russian governments to "step up joint action based on common interests on other critical fronts such as terrorism, Syria, Iran and nuclear proliferation."

In the wake of Yanukovych's ouster, Putin moved to prevent Washington and NATO from exerting influence on Russia's border, organizing the occupation and annexation of the Crimean Peninsula and launching attacks on the native Tatar people there. Moscow also instigated separatist forces, sending in soldiers, weapons and advisers, to seize areas in Donetsk and Luhansk, fueling a war that has left nearly 8,000 dead in the last year and a half.

In February the German and French governments brokered an agreement in Minsk, Belarus, between Kiev, Moscow and its separatist followers. Under the deal, the Ukrainian government will not regain control over the eastern border with Russia until a political settlement is reached creating a decentralized, special status in the separatist-run areas, ensuring Moscow's ongoing sway.

As part of implementing the Minsk agreement, the Ukrainian parliament approved a constitutional change Aug. 31 that grants the regions more autonomy. In their sharpest clash with the government to date, members of the rightist Svoboda Party and Right Sector protesting the vote attacked police and national guard forces outside the parliament, detonating an explosive device, killing three and injuring dozens.

Within the so-called People's Republic of Donetsk, a Sept. 4 shake-up put Denis Pushilin in charge of the separatist parliament, ousting Andrey Purgin, who had opposed the Minsk agreement and called for Moscow to annex eastern Ukraine. Pushilin, whose background includes participation in a massive Ponzi scheme in Russia in the 1990s, is seen as "always ready to precisely follow Kremlin orders," Volodymyr Fesenko, a Kiev-based political analyst, told the Associated Press.

Gov't assaults workers' rights

For working people in Ukraine, the biggest threat comes from the Poroshenko government as it drives to advance the interests of Ukrainian capitalists. Parliament is expected to approve a draft labor law later in September that would give bosses more power to set work rules, impose forced overtime, and expand use of temporary workers.

The rulers have given the green light to a wave of physical assaults against the Communist Party of Ukraine. CP offices have been fire-bombed, members beaten and framed up, and the party barred from participating in coming elections in December. This is the leading edge of the use of thuggery as well as legal assaults against trade unionists and others who oppose government policies.

In August the government banned 38 books from being imported from Russia and published a list of artists who "pose a threat to national security." In June it canceled permission for the Socialist Ukraine party to publish its newspaper. These follow the "decommunization" laws Poroshenko signed in May, which attempt to dictate one "official" version of history and were used to justify banning the Communist Party.

Dozens of masked men who said they were with the Right Sector attacked the office of the Opposition Bloc in Kharkiv Aug. 3, trying to stop the party, which includes members of Yanukovych's former Party of Regions, from registering candidates in the elections.

Coal miners and other workers have had to strike and protest in ongoing efforts to receive their wages. Starting Aug. 26, miners at the Selidivvugillia mine, backed by the Independent Trade Union of Coal Miners of Ukraine, went on strike and blocked roads, demanding back pay, safer working conditions and improved health care.

Meanwhile, Crimean Tatar leaders forced out of their homeland by the Russian occupation announced plans to launch a protest along the border between Crimea and the rest of Ukraine in late September. They are demanding that Moscow release Ukrainian political prisoners, remove restrictions on Crimean Tatar and Ukrainian media in Crimea, stop persecuting Tatars and other Ukrainian nationals and remove the ban on Refat Chubarov, Mustafa Dzhemilev and other Tatar leaders.

THE MILITANT

Free Puerto Rican fighter Oscar López

Puerto Rican independence fighter Oscar López Rivera has been incarcerated in U.S. jails for more than 34 years on frame-up charges of "seditious conspiracy." The 'Militant' covers the fight in Puerto Rico, the U.S. and worldwide to win his freedom.

Militant/Ellen Brickley

Rally in NY Aug. 30. Monthly rallies are held there as part of campaign to free López.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

NEW READERS

❑ $5 for 12 issues

RENEWAL

❑ $10 for 12 weeks

❑ $20 for 6 months

❑ $35 for 1 year

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

PHONE E-MAIL

UNION/SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION

CLIP AND MAIL TO THE MILITANT,
306 W. 37TH ST., 13TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10018.

12 weeks of the *Militant* outside the U.S.: Australia and the Pacific, A$8 • United Kingdom, £3 • Canada, Can$7 • Caribbean and Latin America, US$10 • Continental Europe, £10 • France, 8 euros • New Zealand, NZ$7 • All other areas, US$16 (Send payment to addresses listed in business information box)

The Militant

Vol. 79/No. 34

Closing news date: September 17, 2015

Editor: John Studer
On the Picket Line Editor: Maggie Trowe

Editorial volunteers: Róger Calero, Naomi Craine, Frank Forrestal, Seth Galinsky, Emma Johnson, Jacob Perasso, Gerardo Sánchez, Maggie Trowe, Brian Williams, Rebecca Williamson.

Published weekly except for one week in January, one week in June, one week in July, one week in August and one week in September.

Business manager: Lea Sherman
The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018. **Telephone:** (212) 244-4899
Fax: (646) 462-3279
E-mail: themilitant@mac.com
Website: www.themilitant.com

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: United States: For one year send $35 to above address.

Latin America, Caribbean: For one year send $85 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Africa, Asia, and the Middle East: For one year send $85 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Canada: For one year send Canadian $45 to the Militant, 7107 St. Denis #204, Montreal, Quebec H2S 2S5.

United Kingdom: Send £26 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London, 2nd Floor, 83 Kingsland High St., Dalston, London, E8 2PB, England.

Republic of Ireland and Continental Europe: Send £85 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London at above address.

France: Send 120 euros for one year to Diffusion du Militant, BP 10130, 75723 Paris Cedex 15.

New Zealand: Send NZ$55 for one year to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland 1140, New Zealand.

Australia: Send A$50 for one year to P.O. Box 164 Campsie, NSW 2194, Australia.
Pacific Islands: Send NZ$55 for one year to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland 1140, New Zealand.

Submissions to the *Militant* may be published in the newspaper in print and digital format. By submitting, authors represent that their submissions are original and consent to publication in this manner.

Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant*'s views. These are expressed in editorials.

Campaign for new readers

Continued from front page

presents the SWP's views and organizes its activities, members are offering timely books on revolutionary working-class politics from Pathfinder Press at special half-price discounts as part of this political effort (see offers below).

In the first nine days, 434 people subscribed for the first time or renewed — a good start to the eight-week drive.

Members of the Los Angeles branch sold eight subscriptions participating in the annual Labor Day parade and three at a rally of Walmart workers in Pico Rivera. "We've also had success going door to door in the Los Angeles area and in Oxnard," an agricultural area a couple hours away, reported Bill Arth.

"The most interesting discussion I had was with a landscaping worker originally from Mexico, who is disgusted with the U.S. elections, both the Republicans and Democrats," said Arth. "He really liked that we're a party, and that we call for a labor party based on the unions that can organize working people to fight in our own interests. He got a subscription to read more about the party's work and program, and said if he's convinced we're who we say, he'll want to give money."

"One construction worker started out telling us, 'I'm a conservative and a Trump supporter,'" wrote Dean Hazlewood from New York, describing his experiences on a team that went door to door in a couple of towns in eastern Long Island. "We showed him the paper and explained that many workers hate the so-called political correctness and condescending attitudes of Barack Obama and other Democratic Party politicians. But Donald Trump also represents the ruling class, and workers need to rely on our own power and organize independent of them. He ended up getting a subscription."

Members and supporters of the Oakland branch of the party won 10 new readers to the *Militant* at the Labor Day picnic sponsored by the Alameda County Labor Council. At a booth promoting the cause of union recognition at Walmart, "one unionist after another expressed their solidarity with workers at the retail giant," reported Joel Britton. "Many noted experiences members of their families have had working for Walmart that show the need for a union."

Some marchers from the American Postal Workers Union, sporting T-shirts opposing moves by post office bosses to contract out services to the Staples office supplies outfit, jumped on the special book offers for subscribers. "With the help of one of their co-workers who had earlier subscribed to the *Militant* and who had decided he needed to read *Teamster Politics* by Farrell Dobbs," said Britton, "two postal worker friends of his signed up for introductory subscriptions and got *Teamster Rebellion* or *Teamster Politics*." Dobbs' four-book series, which also includes *Teamster Power* and *Teamster Bureaucracy*, is a treasure chest of history and lessons from the fight to build a revolutionary union movement in the 1930s.

"Two readers renewed tonight, and three others made arrangements for us to come back later this week," said Katy LeRougetel from the Communist League in Calgary, Alberta. "We're going back to the doors of workers who subscribed in the spring. They've been reading the *Militant* for a few months, and many want to get some of the books on special too."

One new reader there took advantage of the offer to get "Capitalism's Long Hot Winter Has Begun" in *New International* no. 12 with his subscription because he's trying to understand what's behind today's capitalist economic crisis, LeRougetel said.

Join us in this effort by contacting the party branch in your area (see list on page 7).

SWP candidate: 'For a labor party based on unions'

"A Socialist Walmart Employee Explains Why He's Running for Philly Mayor" headlines an Aug. 31 article on Osborne Hart, right, of the Socialist Workers Party. The piece by Brian Hickey appeared on Newsworks, the online site of WHYY News, the Public Broadcasting System affiliate in the Philadelphia area.

"Set aside those preconceived notions that November's mayoral-election results were finalized" in the May primary, Hickey writes. "Historically unexpected things happen from time to time. In that context, it made perfect sense when, after handing his nominating-petition signatures over to the county Board of Elections office last month, Osborne Hart of the Socialist Workers Party spoke confidently about his mayoral mission."

The interview notes that Hart is a Walmart shelf stocker and a "longtime industrial worker (meatpacking, railroads, industrial factories, steel)" and "he's 'very pro-union.'"

"We're calling for independent political action based on the unions," Hart said. "The two-party system reinforces the social order. It's interested in profits, not human beings."

"Hart vowed to 'fight to be in any debate' so his issues can be heard," Hickey wrote. Front-running Democratic candidate Jim Kenney has supported all his rivals participating in upcoming candidates forums, so Hart plans to be there, to represent the interests of working people.

— MAGGIE TROWE

'First payments on their way' in SWP $100,000 fund drive

BY JOHN STUDER

"The first payment of $3,200 toward our quota of $13,500 is on its way," Joel Britton, organizer of the Oakland, California, branch of the Socialist Workers Party, wrote Sept. 14. "More to come."

Contributions towards the Socialist Workers Party drive to raise $100,000 over the next eight weeks to help cover the party's political work have begun to come in. Just days after the announcement of the effort, a check for $300 arrived from a long-time supporter of the party in Newark, New Jersey.

Party members across the country are in the process of pulling together ambitious goals and organizing to reach out to those they have been working with to make the drive a success. It runs concurrently with the party's fall campaign to expand the circulation of the *Militant*.

A chart listing area quotas and progress to date will be printed in the next issue and weekly throughout the drive.

Explosive world developments — including the continuing internationalist leadership example of revolutionary Cuba; social explosions, crises and wars from Ukraine to Syria; the deepening world capitalist crisis of production and trade and employer assaults on the working class it has unleashed; the coming apart of the imperialist alliances and relations that have marked the capitalist "world order" established after World War II; and more — are fueling the growth of labor battles and social struggles.

These are propitious circumstances for the expansion of the communist movement and its participation in battles of working people. The SWP is getting a greater hearing as members join with Steelworkers fighting the lockout by Allegheny Technologies bosses, opponents of cop brutality coming together in actions like the recent "Days of Grace" in South Carolina, farmworkers organizing in eastern Washington, and protesters rallying in support of Kurds fighting Syrian government troops, Islamic State terrorists and attacks by the Turkish government.

"We're sending a check for $1,350 toward our $10,000 goal," Chicago fund director John Hawkins wrote Sept. 13. "That's the best start to a Party Building Fund we've had in years."

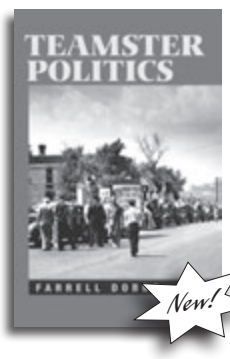
Party supporters reaching out for contributions throughout the Midwest are getting an enthusiastic response, Hawkins said.

"Now the challenge before us is to keep up the pace getting pledges and payments so we not only finish the drive in full and on time, but also keep on schedule each week," Hawkins said. "And we want to meet our goal of winning at least 10 new contributors to the fund."

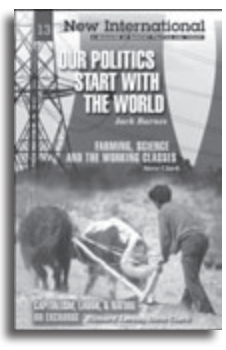
Join us in introducing the work of the party to your co-workers and those you practice politics with. Show them the *Militant*, which reports on world politics from a working-class viewpoint and on the activities of the Socialist Workers Party. And ask them to join you in making as generous a contribution to the party as they can.

John Studer, a member of the Socialist Workers Party National Committee and editor of the Militant*, is the 2015 party fund drive director.*

Special book offers for *Militant* subscribers

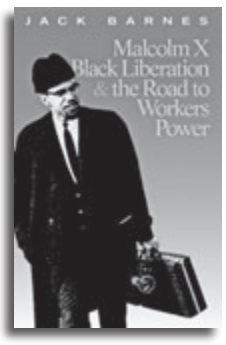


Teamster Politics
by Farrell Dobbs
Third in four-volume series
$10 with subscription
(regular $19)
Also just released in Spanish

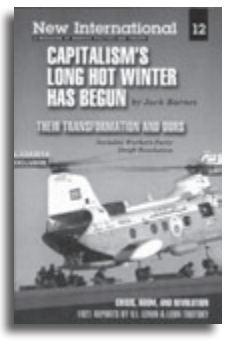


Our Politics Start with the World
by Jack Barnes
In New International no. 13
$7 with subscription
(regular $14)
Also in Spanish, French, Swedish, Greek, Farsi, Arabic

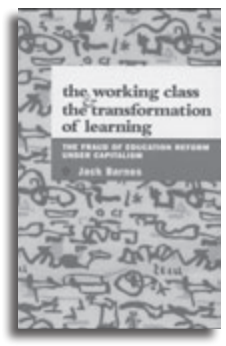
U.S. Imperialism Has Lost the Cold War
by Jack Barnes
In New International no. 11
$8 with subscription
(regular $16)
Also in Spanish, French, Greek, Farsi, Swedish, Icelandic



Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power
by Jack Barnes
$10 with subscription
(regular $20)
Also in Spanish, French, Greek, Farsi, Arabic



Capitalism's Long Hot Winter Has Begun
by Jack Barnes
In New International no. 12
$8 with subscription
(regular $16)
Also in Spanish, French, Swedish, Greek, Farsi, Arabic



The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning
The Fraud of Education Reform Under Capitalism
by Jack Barnes
$2 with subscription
(regular $3)
Also in Spanish, French, Icelandic, Swedish, Farsi, Greek

If you subscribe or renew, these special offers are for you. Contact a distributor listed on page 7.

Charleston 'Days of Grace'

Continued from front page

Slager shot Walter Scott in the back and killed him in April. Participants discussed how the fights against racism and police brutality, to organize and build unions, and for $15 an hour, as well as other social struggles, are related and can be strengthened.

"We have been marching and will keep up the fight," Local 1422 member Tyrone Sanders told some 600 participants in the Sept. 5 demonstration. Sanders' son, 26-year-old Tywanza Sanders, was one of those killed in the church. His wife and granddaughter survived the attack.

"This event gives me the strength to come out to more rallies and get more involved in the union and the coming together of the races," Sanders told the *Militant*. "It's good to see Blacks and whites coming together for a common cause.

"Our union has always been involved in the fight for people's rights," he said, pointing to the local's support for the Wilmington 10 — civil rights fighters framed up in North Carolina in 1972 on charges of firebombing a store — and backing the 1969 strike of Black hospital workers against racial discrimination at what is now the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston.

Wendy Williams, a nurse recently axed by MUSC after 19 years on the job, told the *Militant* she was fired "because I'm outspoken and support the union there, the United Healthcare Workers."

Williams said she and others went to hand out flyers for the Days of Grace outside the hospital, But "management told us to leave, saying we were 'harassing' people."

A wide range of unions, church groups, campus and academic associations and civil rights organizations endorsed the weekend activities. Participants came from other Southern states as well as New York, California and Washington, D.C.

Family members of the nine people killed in the church and of Walter Scott led the march.

"This racist massacre could never happen in Cuba because the very foundation of that country is based on respect for humanity and collective care for each other," said a message of solidarity from the National Network on Cuba read to applause. "Cuba has been the shining example of sending brigades to help fight against diseases, and they are first responders when a disaster happens."

The keynote speaker at the rally and conference was Rev. William Barber, president of the North Carolina NAACP and initiator of "Moral Monday" actions there to champion the fight for voting rights and other labor and social struggles.

The post-Civil War Reconstruction governments, set up by "a fusion coalition of Blacks and whites" after the defeat of the slavocracy, Barber said, changed voting laws, labor laws, the criminal justice system, and introduced public education for all before being defeated by Klan brutality and white supremacist "Redeemers," who organized a bloody counterrevolution when the U.S. rulers pulled federal troops out in 1877.

The mighty Black-led movement that brought down Jim Crow segregation in the 1950s and '60s brought Blacks and Caucasians together again, Barber said, in a struggle marked by discipline and courage.

Militant/Maggie Trowe

"Days of Grace" march passes Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina, Sept. 5 led by family members of those killed by white supremacist at church in June. At left, North Carolina NAACP President William Barber, next to him is new Emanuel Pastor Norvel Goff.

The grace and forgiveness expressed by the families after the recent church killings was in continuity with that tradition, he said. "They did not just do what was right, but what was necessary to build a modern movement in the South."

Other featured speakers at the rally included Norvel Goff, interim pastor at Mother Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church where the terrorist shootings occurred, and Darby Joseph, presiding Elder of the Beaufort District of the AME Church.

"We have a fight on our hands to stop police violence and the economic violence in our community," said Dawn O'Neill, 48, a child care worker who was among four vanloads of people fighting for a minimum wage of $15 an hour who came from Georgia and Alabama.

"It's getting harder and harder for the working person," James Colburn, 47, who is Caucasian and a truck driver in Charleston, said. "The companies don't want to pay anything, and the cost of everything is going up. This is happening to everybody, Black and white. We got to find a way to come together."

"I came to show solidarity from our union in Alabama, where we experience the same situation regarding workers' rights and discrimination," said Mark Bass, president of ILA Local 1410 in Mobile, Alabama.

At the conference the next day, two rounds of workshops were held on the topics of voting rights; ending discriminatory policing; education; economic justice, wages and collective bargaining; Medicaid and access to health care; and ending gun violence.

Janice Lynn, Rachele Fruit and Maggie Trowe contributed to this article.

Meeting plans broader fight for freedom of 'Omaha 2'

BY LAURA GARZA

OMAHA, Neb. — Some 40 people gathered at the Malcolm X Memorial Foundation here Aug. 22 to mark 45 years of the unjust imprisonment of Mondo we Langa and Ed Poindexter by the state of Nebraska and to discuss how to broaden the fight to win their freedom.

The Omaha Two, as they are known, were leaders of the Black Panthers who were framed up in 1970 on false charges of killing Larry Minard Sr., an Omaha cop, and sentenced to life in prison. Minard died after being lured into a home where a suitcase bomb exploded.

Poindexter, a U.S. army veteran who worked in the post office, and we Langa (formerly David Rice), a student and community activist, had helped organize protests against police brutality. They were targets of the FBI's Counterintelligence Program, or COINTELPRO, a spying and disruption campaign directed against Black rights organizations, anti-war coalitions, the Socialist Workers Party and others.

Witnesses placed the two elsewhere at the time of the bombing, and the prosecution's "physical evidence" linking them to the case was dubious at best.

The main testimony against them came from Duane Peak, a 15-year-old who police initially charged with murder in the case. Peak didn't mention Poindexter and we Langa until days after his arrest, at first denied their involvement in court, and changed his story numerous times.

Despite all the irregularities in the trial, the courts have rejected all their appeals.

"We need to get this case known more widely outside of Nebraska to help bring pressure to bear," Mary Dickinson, a leader of Nebraskans for Justice, told those at the meeting.

Pressure is also needed to get prison authorities to let people visit Mondo and Ed, Tariq Al-Amin, another leader of Nebraskans for Justice, added. "In the past we had free access," he said, but recently prison authorities denied a request for a press interview. Al-Amin encouraged people to write to the two to let them know they have support.

Audience members discussed taking advantage of greater opportunities today to get word about the fight, pointing to the growth of Black Lives Matter and other anti-police brutality actions in the last year. "More people have seen how the cops and prosecutors have lied, planted evidence and framed people," said Dennis Richter of the Socialist Workers Party, who has been active in actions against police brutality. "Now is a good time to win more support for their case."

Al-Amin said we Langa and Poindexter remain active, writing about politics and working with others in prison. They both suffer from serious medical conditions.

For more information and to get involved, contact Nebraskans for Justice at P.O. Box 11725, Omaha, NE 68111 or visit www.NebraskansforJustice.org and www.n2pp.info.

To write to the Omaha Two, address letters to Edward Poindexter #27767 or to W.M.E. we Langa #27768 and mail to P.O. Box 2500, Lincoln, NE 68542-2500.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA

Oakland

Defend Rail Workers Thomas Harding and Richard Labrie Against the Canadian Government's Frame-Up Campaign. Speaker: Jeff Powers, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Sept. 25, 7:30 p.m. *675 Hegenberger Road, Suite 250. Tel.: (510) 686-1351.*

Los Angeles

Solidarity with Toilers in the Middle East! What Is Behind the Refugee Crisis in Europe? Speaker: Bill Arth, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Sept. 25, 7:30 p.m. *2826 S. Vermont Ave., Suite 1. Tel.: (323) 643-4968.*

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Ten Years Later, Lessons from Hurricane Katrina: Twin Capitalist Parties at Fault, Workers Need a Labor Party. Speaker: Sam Manuel, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Sept. 25, 7:30 p.m. *777 Cleveland Ave. SW, Suite 103. Tel.: (678) 528-7828.*

MINNESOTA

Minneapolis

Defend a Woman's Right to Choose Abortion — Oppose the Assault on Planned Parenthood! Speaker: Diana Newberry, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Sept. 25, 7:30 p.m. *416 Hennepin Ave., Suite 214. Tel.: (612) 729-1205.*

CANADA

Montreal

Communist League Campaign Rally. Hear Beverly Bernardo, Communist League candidate in Montreal Papineau Riding. Fri., Sept. 25, 8 p.m. *7107 St. Denis, Room 204. Tel.: (514) 272-5840.*

—CALENDAR—

ILLINOIS

Oak Park

Fight for $15 in Chicago's Suburbs. Mon., Sept. 28, 5:30 p.m. *McDonald's at 111 W. Madison St.*

UNITED KINGDOM

Manchester

Cuba: What Now for the Revolution? Speakers: Steve Ludlam, senior politics lecturer, Sheffield University and Cuba Solidarity Campaign Executive; Caroline Bellamy, GMB union member and guest of Cuban trades union federation at 2015 May Day march in Havana. Thurs., Sept. 24, 6:30 p.m. *Room G3, Friends' Meeting House, 6 Mount St. Sponsored by Manchester Cuba Solidarity Campaign.*

Recommended Reading

50 Years of Covert Operations in the US

by Larry Seigle, Steve Clark, Farrell Dobbs

$12, also in Spanish

www.pathfinderpress.com

—ON THE PICKET LINE—

MAGGIE TROWE, EDITOR

Help the *Militant* cover rail, steel, auto and Verizon contract fights!

This column is dedicated to giving voice to those engaged in battle and helping build solidarity. National rail and auto contracts are approaching expiration; ATI Steelworkers are locked out; and union contracts for basic steel and East Coast Verizon have expired. I invite those involved in fights against concessions to contact me at 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018; or (212) 244-4899; or themilitant@mac.com. We'll work together to ensure your story is told.

— Maggie Trowe

5,000 Seattle teachers strike for smaller class size, pay hike

SEATTLE — More than 5,000 teachers, aides and other school employees represented by the Seattle Education Association went on strike here Sept. 9, the first day of school.

The teachers' demands include smaller class size, higher pay, cost-of-living increases and more funding for public schools. They oppose the Board of Education's proposal to lengthen the workday with no pay raise.

Picket lines were up at every school and spirits were high, buoyed by support from parents, students and others in the community.

Kathy Oglesby, a retired teacher who was on the bargaining team in 1985 when the teachers last struck, was on the Mercer Middle School picket line with her daughter and grandson, who attends the school. "It's a shame that it comes down to this again. We are standing up for the kids. It's the same issues as before."

"I really feel for the new teachers," Sultan Mohamed, an art teacher for 22 years, told the *Militant*. "Many have to work second jobs just to pay their bills. We must show the school board we mean business."

Matt Carter, a special education teacher at Franklin High School, said students and others had brought food to the picket line and even offered to do child care for picketing teachers. A local Domino's donated 20 pizzas. "This strike is not just over pay," said Brian Black, a history teacher at Franklin. "We are concerned about excess testing and the inequities in the system that affects minority students."

— Edwin Fruit

Grain millers in Iowa rally against concession contract

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa — More than 100 members of Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers Union Local 100G and supporters rallied outside Penford Products Co. here Sept. 4 to demand Ingredion Inc., Penford's parent company, withdraw concession demands and negotiate a contract.

The 160 workers at the plant — which produces potato starches, corn sweeteners and ethanol — have been working without a contract since Aug. 1. "We rejected the company's 'last, best offer' by 95 percent because they were asking for more than 100 concessions," Local President Chris Eby told the rally.

"I know what it's like not to have a union," Ironworker Kris Baker said, recalling working as a nonunion construction worker before joining the Ironworkers. He came with fellow unionists to show support.

Local 100G Vice President Matt Maas said this was the second informational picket line the local had organized, "and don't expect it to be the last if the company continues to refuse to give us the contract we need." A group of workers were listening to the speeches during their break across the street at Penford and waved in support.

— Jacquie Henderson and Josefina Otero

Militant/Scott Breen

Striking Seattle school teachers and supporters picket at Rainier Beach High School Sept. 14.

Fight for $15, union drives mark NY Labor Day Parade

BY MAGGIE TROWE

Support for the fight for a $15 hourly minimum wage and efforts to unionize unorganized workers marked this year's New York City Labor Day Parade Sept. 12. The Service Employees International Union Local 1199 contingent, which led the march, contained a sizable and vocal group of home health care aides who earn $10 an hour.

"We're fighting for the home health aides because we all deserve a decent minimum wage," Janice Thompson, a nurse and 1199 member, told the *Militant*.

"Rite Aid drug store workers are in 1199," Roy Acosta, a local organizer, said. "Now we're trying to organize Walgreen's workers and the medical technicians working in the growing number of walk-in medical clinics in the drugstores." Meanwhile, union members at Rite Aid are fighting company concession demands that would cut the number of workers.

"The 53 workers at Tower Isles [Frozen Foods], a Brooklyn company that makes Jamaican patties, won representation by United Food and Commercial Workers Local 888 four months ago," local organizer Joseph Bigot told the *Militant*.

These efforts — along with protests and strikes by workers at Walmart, McDonald's, those who work for contractors at area airports, and others — are having an effect. Earlier in the week New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, with Vice President Joe Biden by his side, announced he is introducing a $15 an hour minimum wage law in the state legislature.

In July the state Fast Food Wage Board approved an incremental increase of fast-food workers' pay to $15. Cuomo's new proposal, which would apply to all workers, is also incremental — reaching $15 in 2018 for workers in New York City and three years later in the rest of the state.

Wendy Webb marched with the Women's Committee in the Laborers Local 79 contingent. Webb joined the construction union more than 20 years ago.

"We noticed that many women get in the apprentice program, but when they get to the jobs they tend to disappear," Webb said. "So about a year and a half ago we decided to organize within the local to make women visible and win support from the men. It's not easy when you are by yourself, but if we get together we can make each other stronger."

Other contingents included Communications Workers of America and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers employed at Verizon. Their contracts ran out in August. Postal workers fighting U.S. Postal Service's union-busting cuts and closure of post offices were also present. "Keep 'em open! It's a community right!" read their placards.

Workers at the City University of New York carried "CUNY contract now!" and "CUNY needs a raise!" signs in the contingents of American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees District Council 37 and Professional Staff Congress-American Federation of Teachers, which represents professors and others.

"We haven't had a contract since 2010," said Tenesha Spain, a DC 37 member who works at York College in Queens. "The state government is offering a contract with a wage freeze for three years and only a 2 percent increase in the fourth and fifth years."

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

THE MmilitANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

September 28, 1990

OKA, Quebec — Some 45 Mohawk men, women, and children continue to refuse to surrender to the 400 heavily armed soldiers of the Canadian army who surround their fortified refuge in a detoxification center at Kanesatake, a Mohawk community near here, about 30 miles northwest of Montreal.

These besieged Natives have been facing down the army for nearly three weeks. The army invaded Kanesatake on September 1 and dismantled barricades that had been up since July 11, when more than 100 Sûreté du Québec provincial police attacked a peaceful blockade preventing the construction of an exclusive golf course on Mohawk land.

THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

September 27, 1965

Once again, the game of the Democratic Party primary has been played in New York City and a large number of radicals and persons opposed to the U.S. involvement in Vietnam were sucked into it, mainly through having devoted considerable energy campaigning for the reform Democrat, Rep. William F. Ryan.

Ryan has a certain attraction to the anti-war forces because — while he has not actually opposed U.S. involvement in Vietnam — he has been more critical then most capitalist politicians and was one of the handful of congressmen who voted earlier against President Johnson's special Vietnam war appropriation earlier this year.

SOCIALIST APPEAL

Published Weekly as the Organ of the Socialist Party of New York, Left Wing Branches

September 28, 1940

CHATHAM, Va. Sept. 20 — Protest telegrams pouring in to the court put a halt today to the attempt to railroad Odell Waller, young Negro sharecropper, to the electric chair by rushing his trial only three days after he was indicted.

Judge Clement of the Circuit Court of Pittsylvania County, Virginia, backed by Commonwealth attorney Whitehead, had refused to continue the case or give the defense time to summon important witnesses. The protest telegrams brought a sudden change and the judge granted a continuance until September 26. Waller, a 23-year-old Negro sharecropper, is charged with shooting to death his white landlord in a dispute over the division of the crops.

For further reading

www.pathfinderpress.com

Anti-Haitian moves aim to divide Dominican workers

BY SETH GALINSKY

In a two-pronged attack on the working class, the government of Dominican Republic President Danilo Medina is challenging the citizenship of hundreds of thousands of people of Haitian descent born there since 1929 and has stepped up deportation of workers born in Haiti.

"Since Aug. 2, the government says that it has deported 2,200 Haitian immigrants," Manuel de Jesús Dandre, a leader of the Dominican-Haitian Cultural Center, said by phone from Santo Domingo Sept. 10. The government had set a May 31 deadline for foreign-born workers to register for legal status.

Haitian-born workers make up a large percentage of sugarcane cutters, workers on banana plantations and the workforce in tourism and construction. Many have lived and worked in the Dominican Republic almost their entire lives, as part of Dominican government-organized programs to guarantee cheap labor for capitalist bosses.

Of the nearly 500,000 Haitian immigrants in the Dominican Republic, 288,000 have applied for documents that would allow them to keep working legally. "About 110,000 of them have received a sticker like the stamps put on a passport," Dandre said, "but it's not a work authorization." Several thousand, fearing that if they were forcibly deported they would lose everything, packed up their belongings and headed to Haiti.

As many as 300,000 people of Haitian descent who were born and raised in the Dominican Republic also face threats of deportation. In September 2013, the Dominican Supreme Court declared retroactive a 2010 constitutional amendment that denies citizenship to children born in the Dominican Republic if their parents are not citizens.

In the face of criticism by human rights groups around the world and numerous protests in the Dominican Republic, the U.S. and elsewhere, the Dominican government passed a law in May 2014 that divided workers of Haitian descent into two categories: those who had previously been issued official ID cards and were registered as Dominican citizens and those born in the Dominican Republic but who had not been issued official documents or given copies of their birth certificates.

Under the law, the first group would be recognized as citizens but the second would be designated "foreigners."

The Central Election Board, which oversees birth certificates, often refuses to issue them to Haitian descendants. In the Dominican Republic birth certificates are only valid for six months at a time, Dandre noted.

"That's what happened to me," Dandre said. "On July 30 I tried to get my birth certificate so I could renew my passport, but they refused. There's no explanation. The whole process is arbitrary."

Roberto Antuan Jose, a lawyer at the Cultural Center, told the *Militant* he is going to court Sept. 17 representing a young man born in the Dominican Republic whose mother is Haitian. "They gave him a birth certificate that says he is a foreigner. How is it possible that he is a foreigner if he was born in a hospital in the Dominican Republic?"

So far there have been few cases of people born in the Dominican Republic who have been deported, Dandre said, "but the threat is there."

Protest denationalization of Dominicans of Haitian descent & deportations in Dominican Rep.

Wed. Sept. 23, 2-7 p.m., at the UN
Dag Hammarskjold Park, E. 47th St

Coalition for Human Rights in the DR
For more info: 718-618-9190

Rally in Dominican Republic last year protesting government's attack on citizenship rights of Dominicans of Haitian descent. Signs read "Restore our nationality now," "We are equal before God and the law," "I am as Dominican as you" and "No to racial discrimination."

Assad's war creates refugee crisis in Syria, Europe

BY EMMA JOHNSON

As tens of thousands of refugees from Syria and elsewhere arrive in Europe, capitalist rulers across the continent are imposing document controls, deploying soldiers, building fences and threatening to end passport-free passage within the European Union.

At the same time millions of refugees driven from their homes by the brutal assaults of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad remain in Syria and surrounding countries, including the most impoverished workers and farmers.

After some 40,000 refugees arrived in Germany over the Sept. 12-13 weekend, Berlin started imposing document checks. Before rail traffic between Austria and Germany closed, Austrian officials said 500 people arrived every hour at its main crossing with Hungary.

Berlin's decision to impose controls produced a chain reaction. The next day officials in Austria and Slovakia announced they would follow suit. Both governments have sent troops to reinforce their borders. Hungary has built a 108-mile razor-wire fence and sent 4,300 troops to its border with Serbia. On Sept. 14 the government declared a state of emergency in the border regions.

While Berlin said the border controls are temporary to deal with an emergency situation, "This measure is also a signal to Europe," Interior Minister Tomas de Maizière told the media in a thinly veiled threat to other governments that if they don't accept more refugees, the free movement of people within the EU might not be allowed to continue.

The influx of refugees further deepens the divisions built into the EU from its founding between northern and southern member states, most recently expressed around the debt crisis in Greece.

Some workers in Europe sympathize with the refugees. Rallies took place in London, Copenhagen, Denmark, and elsewhere in solidarity over the Sept. 12-13 weekend.

Arab Spring failed

The roots of the Syrian crisis lie in the decades-long brutality of the Assad regime. A broad popular movement in 2011, similar to the "Arab Spring" in Egypt, demanding political rights and an end to government repression, failed to oust Assad. The ensuing conflict is now in its fifth year.

As the regime lost control of large parts of the country, it lashed out against the population. Backed by Moscow and Tehran, Assad has used chemical weapons, ballistic missiles and deadly shrapnel-filled barrel bombs against the population, killing 250,000.

Of Syria's prewar population of 23 million, 7.6 million are internally displaced and 4 million have fled the country, according to the United Nations refugee agency. More than half are under the age of 18. There are roughly 2 million in Turkey, more than 1 million in Lebanon and hundreds of thousands in Jordan, Iraq and Egypt.

Thousands participated in "Refugees welcome here" solidarity demonstration in London Sept. 12, one of numerous that day in countries across Europe.

Most of these refugees are unable to work legally and live in extreme poverty. The World Food Program has halved its assistance to the neediest in Lebanon to $13.50 per person per month.

Most leaving for Europe are those with more education and resources, often with friends or family already there. The majority are young men in good health.

Syrians seeking refuge or a place to organize to struggle in the region face increasing obstacles. Lebanon has demanded visas since January. Jordan allows only 40 to 50 people a day to enter. The Turkish border was relatively open until recently, but is now a fortified strip of land guarded by trenches, miles of barbed wire fence and armed troops.

Assad's murderous war

Washington and other imperialist governments have let the Syrian people bleed. President Barack Obama increasingly banks on an agreement — what he calls a "reset" — with Moscow and new relations with the regime in Tehran to stabilize the region, offering protection for the interests of U.S. imperialism.

Because of the vacuum of revolutionary leadership, the brutal and reactionary army of Islamic State, with military leadership from former commanders in the army of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, stepped in and seized hunks of territory, both in Syria and Iraq. Workers and farmers bore the brunt of IS thuggery.

While the focus of the U.S. media coverage on the Mideast has been the grisly beheadings and other violence carried out by Islamic State, the Assad regime is responsible for the vast majority of those killed in Syria.

Assad's regime is based on a narrow layer of capitalist families, mostly from the Alawite Muslim minority, a branch of Shiite Islam comprising some 10 percent of the population.

The Russian government has flown in tanks, equipment and personnel to beef up the regime and keep the western, most populated coastal regions of the country under Assad's control.

Moscow has indicated it seeks a meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Obama during the upcoming United Nations sessions to discuss their mutual interests in the area, including working together in the fight against Islamic State. Josh Earnest, White House press secretary, said he thought the meeting was likely to occur, the *New York Times* reported Sept. 15.

The one place the masses have produced a capable fighting force is in the Kurdish-dominated areas, where they have beaten back Assad's army and Islamic State alike.

The advances made by the Kurdish struggle for national rights are threatened after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, with Washington's backing, recently launched airstrikes and military raids and imposed curfews in the country's Kurdish southeast under the guise of fighting terrorism.

Cuban Revolution is example for workers, farmers in the US

The French-language edition of Cuba and the Coming American Revolution *by Jack Barnes, is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for September. It is especially timely given the recent victory for the Cuban people in establishing diplomatic relations with Washington.*

The first excerpt below is from the foreword by Mary-Alice Waters, who, like Barnes, was an active participant in many of the actions in defense of the Cuban Revolution and of Black rights in the 1960s described in the book. Both are currently members of the Socialist Workers Party National Committee carrying out central responsibility, working with others worldwide, to build parties that are proletarian in composition and program.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

The excerpt by Barnes is from the chapter titled, "There Will Be a Victorious Revolution in the United States Before a Victorious Counterrevolution in Cuba." Copyright © 2007 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BY MARY-ALICE WATERS

In less than seventy-two hours of combat in April 1961 along the southern coast of Cuba near the Bay of Pigs, Cuba's Revolutionary Air Force, militias, police, and Rebel Army defeated an invasion by some 1,500 Cuban counterrevolutionaries financed, armed, trained, scripted, and deployed by Washington. The stunning victory, Yankee imperialism's first military defeat in the Americas, had repercussions around the world — not least of all within the United States itself.

Jack Barnes takes that historic moment as the starting point for *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution*. It was the moment when Cuba no longer appeared as yet another potential Latin American victim of the most powerful empire in history, but emerged as its equal. "For us, what Cuban workers and peasants had accomplished," Barnes writes, "was the example in our own political lifetime of the necessity and the possibility of revolution, of not only how to fight but how to fight to win, of the capacity of ordinary human beings to transform themselves as they confront challenges and take on responsibilities they would have previously deemed impossible."

Cuba and the Coming American Revolution is not primarily a book about Cuba, however. Above all, it is about the struggles of class-conscious working people in the imperialist heartland, the youth who are attracted to them, and why the course of the class battles accelerating here today is and will continue to be inextricably intertwined with the defense of the conquests of the Cuban people.

"The greatest obstacle to the line of march of the toilers," notes the author in these pages, "is the tendency, promoted and perpetuated by the exploiting classes, for working people to underestimate ourselves, to underestimate what we can accomplish, to doubt our own worth." What the workers and farmers of Cuba showed us is that with class solidarity, political consciousness, courage, focused and persistent efforts at education, and a revolutionary leadership of a caliber like that in Cuba — a leadership tested and forged in battle over years — it is possible to stand up to enormous might and seemingly insurmountable odds *and win*.

Granma

Cuban working people who defeated U.S.-backed invasion in April 1961, were "fighting to defend what they had accomplished through two and a half years of a deeply popular revolution," Jack Barnes notes. Above, literacy brigadistas on their way to teach in rural areas, 1961.

BY JACK BARNES

The cadres of the people's militias, the Revolutionary National Police, the Rebel Army, and the Revolutionary Air Force, on the other hand, were fighting for something worth giving everything for at Playa Girón — something that was transforming the *life* of the great majority. They were fighting to defend what they had accomplished through two and a half years of a deeply popular revolution, and the ways they were changing themselves in the process. They were fighting to defend the redemption of Cuba's national sovereignty and dignity from U.S. imperialism and its exploiting factory owners, landlords, and brothel and casino operators. To defend the land reform; the literacy campaign and universal public education; the enforcement of laws against racial discrimination; the slashing of housing rents and utility rates; the steps to draw women and youth, together with the workers and peasants, more deeply into all aspects of economic, social, political, and military life; the internationalist solidarity with struggles by toilers throughout Latin America and the world.

That is the kind of army that can withstand big sacrifices and fight to the death. That is the kind of army that won't develop self-destructive doubts about what it is fighting for. That is the kind of army the enemy slowly but surely comes to realize won't stop doing battle, no matter what.

Further Reading

Playa Girón/Bay of Pigs

Washington's First Military Defeat in the Americas

by Fidel Castro, José Ramón Fernández

In fewer than 72 hours of combat in April 1961, Cuba's revolutionary armed forces defeated a U.S.-organized invasion by 1,500 mercenaries. $22

www.pathfinderpress.com

September BOOKS OF THE MONTH

PATHFINDER READERS CLUB SPECIALS — 25% DISCOUNT

Cuba et la révolution américaine à venir
(Cuba and the Coming American Revolution)
by Jack Barnes

The Cuban Revolution of 1959 had a worldwide political impact, including on workers and youth in the imperialist heartland.
$10. **Special price: $7.50**

America's Road to Socialism
by James P. Cannon
$15. **Special price: $11.25**

February 1965: The Final Speeches
by Malcolm X
$19. **Special price: $14.25**

Founding of the Communist International
Proceedings and Documents of the First Congress, March 1919
$35. **Special price: $26.25**

The History of the Russian Revolution
by Leon Trotsky

The classic account of the social, economic and political dynamics of the first socialist revolution as told by one of its central leaders.
$38. **Special price: $28.50**

Teamster Bureaucracy
by Farrell Dobbs
$19. **Special price: $14.25**

Join Pathfinder Readers Club for $10 and receive discounts all year long

ORDER ONLINE AT WWW.PATHFINDERPRESS.COM
OFFER GOOD UNTIL SEPTEMBER 30

IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

Where to find distributors of the *Militant*, *New International*, and a full display of Pathfinder books.

UNITED STATES

CALIFORNIA: Oakland: 675 Hegenberger Road, Suite 250. Zip: 94621. Tel: (510) 686-1351. E-mail: swpoak@sbcglobal.net **Los Angeles:** 2826 S. Vermont. Suite 1. Zip: 90007. Tel: (323) 643-4968. E-mail: swpla@att.net

FLORIDA: Miami: 7911 Biscayne Blvd., Suite 2. Zip: 33138. Tel: (305) 757-8869. E-mail: swpmiami@att.net

GEORGIA: Atlanta: 777 Cleveland Ave. SW Suite 103. Zip: 30315. Tel: (678) 528-7828. E-mail: swpatlanta@bellsouth.net

ILLINOIS: Chicago: 2018 S. Ashland Ave. Zip: 60608. Tel: (312) 455-0111. E-mail: SWPChicago@fastmail.fm

MASSACHUSETTS: Boston: 13 Bennington St., 2nd Floor, East Boston. Zip: 02128. Tel: (617) 569-9169. E-mail: swpboston@verizon.net

MINNESOTA: Minneapolis: 416 E. Hennepin Ave., Suite 214. Zip: 55414. Tel: (612) 729-1205. E-mail: tcswp@qwestoffice.net

NEBRASKA: Lincoln: Tel: (402) 217-4906. E-mail: swplincoln@windstream.net. **Omaha:** 3302 Q St. (Upstairs). Zip: 68107. Tel.: (402) 779-7697. E-mail: swpomaha@fastmail.net

NEW YORK: New York: P.O. Box 1233. Zip: 10018. Tel: (646) 434-8117. E-mail: newyorkswp@gmail.com

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: 3701 Pulaski Ave. Zip: 19140. Tel: (215) 225-1270. E-mail: philaswp@verizon.net

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 143 Kennedy St. NW, Suite 15. Zip: 20011. Tel: (202) 536-5080. E-mail: swp.washingtondc@verizon.net

WASHINGTON: Seattle: 5418 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118-2439. Tel: (206) 323-1755. E-mail: seattleswp@qwestoffice.net

AUSTRALIA

Sydney: 1st Flr, 3/281-287 Beamish St., Campsie, NSW 2194. Mailing address: P.O. Box 164, Campsie, NSW 2194. Tel: (02) 9718 9698. E-mail: cl_australia@optusnet.com.au

CANADA

QUEBEC: Montreal: 7107 St. Denis #204 H2S 2S5. Tel: (514) 272-5840. E-mail: cllc_can@bellnet.ca **ALBERTA: Calgary:** 4909 17th Ave. SE, Unit 154. T2A 0V5. Tel: (403) 457-9044. E-mail: cllccalgary@fastmail.fm

FRANCE

Paris: BP 10130, 75723 Paris Cedex 15. Tel: 01 40-10-28-37E-mail: milpath.paris@laposte.net

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland: 188a Onehunga Mall, Onehunga. Postal address: P.O. Box 3025, Auckland 1140. Tel: (09) 636-3231. E-mail: clauck@xtra.co.nz

UNITED KINGDOM

ENGLAND: London: 2nd Floor, 83 Kingsland High St., Dalston. Postal code: E8 2PB. Tel: (020) 3583-3553. E-mail: cllondon@fastmail.fm **Manchester:** Room 301, 3rd floor, Hilton House, 26–28 Hilton St. Postal code: M1 2EH. Tel: (016) 1478-2496. E-mail: clmanchr@gmail.com

EDITORIAL

Solidarity with Syrian toilers, refugees

Continued from front page

countries in Europe have refused to carry out the fight for working-class unity over decades, instead joining with each of their bosses' governments in advancing a nationalist and protectionist course. Workers everywhere have to chart a new road forward.

It's different than a general call to "open the borders," as an editorial in last week's *Militant* put forward. That's a utopian demand, and, if adopted under capitalist rule, would lead to increased competition among workers, unemployment, lower wages and social misery.

Workers worldwide also need to extend the hand of solidarity to the embattled people in Syria, the vast majority of whom, including most workers and farmers, remain within the country or have been forced to seek refuge in surrounding nations. Nearly 8 million are displaced inside the war-torn country; another 4 million are in Jordan, Turkey, Lebanon and elsewhere in the region.

Demand an end to the brutal assaults of the Assad government and other enemies of the toilers in the region.

The one place in Syria where the masses have produced a capable fighting force and successfully defended themselves is in the Kurdish-dominated areas, where they have beaten back Assad's army and Islamic State alike. Workers around the world need to back the Kurds' struggle for national rights and a homeland and oppose assaults against them by the rulers of Syria and Turkey, backed by Washington.

The crisis in Syria is a product of the defeat of the 2011 uprising against the Assad regime, and its continuing slaughter in the years since; the emergence of the reactionary Islamic State in both Syria and Iraq, filling a vacuum of working-class leadership left by decades of betrayals by Stalinist and nationalist misleaderships; and the effects of Washington's wars and occupation of Iraq.

It is exacerbated by the unraveling of the imperialist order forged by the victors of the two World Wars, principally Washington, and the efforts of the imperialist rulers and capitalist governments in the region today to maintain a grip. It is accelerated by the Barack Obama administration's drive to seek a strategic accommodation with Moscow and Tehran in Syria, Ukraine and elsewhere with the futile hope of achieving stability for U.S. imperialism in the Mideast and beyond.

It's through fighting for working-class solidarity and organization — in the U.S., the Mideast and across Europe — that working people can begin to break with the capitalist rulers and organize ourselves politically, advancing the interests of all the toilers on the road toward taking power out of the hands of the capitalist exploiters and war makers.

Oct. 11 protest set to demand rail safety

Continued from front page

Support for the rail workers is intertwined with a growing movement there to force the rail bosses to operate trains safely.

During the early morning hours of July 6, 2013, an unoccupied 72-car train operated by the now-bankrupt Montreal, Maine and Atlantic Railway careened down a slope, derailed, exploded and burned in Lac-Mégantic. It was filled with crude oil from the North Dakota Bakken shale oil fields, headed to the Irving Oil refinery in Saint John, New Brunswick. The downtown area was reduced to smoldering ruins, and millions of gallons of toxic crude oil poured into the soil, the lake and the Chaudière River.

The MMA had been granted special dispensation by Transport Canada, as a cost-cutting measure, to run their oil trains with a one-person crew.

Harding, Labrie and low-level Montreal, Maine and Atlantic official Jean Demaître face life in prison on 47 counts each of criminal negligence causing death.

A government ban on crude oil transport through Lac-Mégantic expires in January 2016. U.S. hedge fund Fortress Investment Group bought up the bankrupt railway and set up the Central Maine and Quebec Railway, hoping to profit from resuming oil traffic.

For now, Bakken crude for the Irving Oil refinery, the largest in Canada, is taken by train to Albany, New York, and by boat down the Hudson River through New York City harbor and up the Atlantic Coast.

"Our original goal was to get 2,500 signatures by October on a petition calling for an injunction to stop Central Maine and Quebec from shipping dangerous goods and demanding that they repair their unsafe tracks through Lac-Mégantic," André Lachapelle, a leader of the Sécu-Rail Committee-Lac Mégantic region, said by phone. "We got 2,500 in two weeks. We will present the petition to City Council Sept. 21 and we're organizing a demonstration on Oct. 11."

Uneasy about the widespread support for Harding and Labrie in Lac-Mégantic — where many are convinced Harding is a hero for risking his life to prevent nine additional oil tanker cars from exploding — the Quebec prosecutors are maneuvering to move the jury trial out of the area. The next court date is Dec. 1.

"We still don't know what the prosecution's case is," Thomas Walsh, Harding's lawyer, told the *Militant*.

Harding and Labrie have the support of their union, the United Steelworkers, which organized a defense fund; the Teamsters Rail Conference, Canada's main rail union; the Transportation Division of the SMART union in the U.S.; and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen division of the Teamsters.

The rail barons have joined the government to target Harding for the disaster. "This is a failure of one individual," charged Edward Burkhardt, former chairman of the MMA. The disaster happened "because of one person's behavior," Canadian Pacific Railway CEO Hunter Harrison told the Toronto *Globe and Mail*.

Railroad vital for region's bosses

The railway through Lac-Mégantic is critical for the owners of Tafisa Canada Inc., the biggest particle board factory in North America. Tafisa employs about 350 workers, members of the Canadian Energy and Paper Workers Union. Central Maine and Quebec also serves dozens of saw mills in the area and pulp and paper operations just across the border in Maine.

"One woman at our petition table on the street said she would have signed but her husband advised her not to, since his employer, Tafisa, had made it clear that its employees should not sign," Blais said.

Central Maine and Quebec is the lifeline for 50 businesses in Quebec's Eastern Townships that employ 4,200 workers. But the big profits are in oil. This is behind the company's drive to restart the oil trains.

The Citizen's Committee has campaigned to expose conditions on the line. Blais and Lachappelle gave this reporter a portfolio of photos documenting rotting ties, broken spikes and other graphic examples of the dangerous shape of the railroad's tracks.

Attacking the committee's work, Central Maine and Quebec Railway President John Giles released an Aug. 12 "open letter," saying "well-intentioned but misguided individuals" are promoting "myths." He said, "There are no plans to restart movements of crude oil through the town of Lac-Mégantic at this time." But, he added, "things change all the time."

The Oct. 11 demonstration begins at 1:30 p.m. at the Lac-Mégantic Sports Centre, where victims were brought after the derailment and fire. The Dec. 1 court hearing is at the provincial court in the same building.

Join the defense campaign!

Funds for the legal defense of Tom Harding and Richard Labrie can be donated in Canadian currency at www.justice4USWrailworkers.org and in U.S. currency at www.tomhardingdefensefund.com. Solidarity should be sent to their union local — USW 1976 / Section locale 1976, 2360 De Lasalle, Suite 202, Montreal, QC H1V 2L1. Email: info@1976usw.ca.

Steelworkers fights

Continued from front page

More than 100 members of United Steelworkers Local 1011, joined by several members of USW 1010, rallied outside the ArcelorMittal mill here Sept. 14.

"ArcelorMittal continues to demand major economic and non-economic concessions on many issues, such as vacation pay, incentive pay, sickness and accident benefits and transfer rights," said an update issued Sept. 12 by Local 1011 leaders. The company also demands big concessions in medical benefits.

"The steel industry is like a rollercoaster, but we still have to sustain ourselves and our families," Sherry Lane, an overhead crane operator, told the *Militant*. "We aren't asking for more. We just want to keep up with inflation, maintain our health care, and work in a safe environment. We fight corporate greed on a daily basis. This is going to be a fight and we're here today to let the world know we're ready for it."

BY KARL BRENDLE

LOUISVILLE, Ohio — About 40 locked-out Steelworkers from several locals took our fight for a fair contract at Allegheny Technologies Inc. to New York City Sept. 9.

It was a satisfying trip. For about two hours we chanted and held our signs high in front of the Grand Hyatt Hotel where ATI Vice President Dan Greenfield was speaking at an industry conference. Over the live web broadcast of the meeting, you can hear us chanting, "What do we want? A fair contract! When do we want it? Now!"

ATI is boasting that replacement workers are getting the job done. But from the picket line here, we see trucks bringing in a coil, and a few hours later the same coil is brought back out.

The United Steelworkers and ATI met with a federal mediator Sept. 11 to try to continue to bargain by ending the unfair lockout. The company was not willing to do that and didn't move off their "last, best and final" Aug. 6 offer.

The union gave ATI a proposal on scheduling issues through mediation in a good faith attempt to move forward. The company left without responding to the union's proposal, and hasn't responded as to whether they will attend the next scheduled meeting.

Meanwhile, the USW remains unified in growing its solidarity on the picket lines and strategic rallies.

— Karl Brendle works at ATI in Louisville, Ohio, and is president of Steelworkers Local 1046

BY MARVIN DUNKLIN

WASHINGTON, Pa. — I stood at the ATI plant gate on picket duty this week watching seven unmarked vans unloading 45 scab workers, of which 40 or so were people of color or females. ATI, a company that has hired few Black or female workers, is exploiting minority hands and feet to help break the back of organized labor. Currently, there are fewer than 10 African-Americans and fewer than 10 females out of 235 locked-out workers. I have heard all the excuses from the company about why this is so — "lack of qualifications, education and experience," or, with shoulders shrugged, management says, "We can't find any."

As a Black man who has worked here since the mid-1980s, I can attest that under "normal" hiring circumstances, ATI would never hire so many women and Blacks. The new "complexion" of the scabs at my plant is an attempt by ATI and scab-supplier Strom Engineering to stir up the already volatile situation of the lockout.

Our union members support one another and continue to hold the picket line with discipline and respect.

Workers need to know the labor history of America. The divide-and-conquer tactics of the employers have often included efforts to pit workers against each other on the basis of race and sex.

Take time on picket duty to educate one another as proud, undivided workers. You cannot tell the story of this nation accurately without discussing the mechanisms of capitalist exploitation. "Educated" HR personnel often attend Dale Carnegie business courses. Likewise, workers must educate ourselves. Unions need to popularize labor causes. The infusion of information from papers like the *Militant* can go a long way in raising awareness of labor struggles.

We are more than the sum of our clock numbers!

— Marvin Dunklin is a member USW Local 7139 in Washington, Pa.